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K-4284

BLUE SPRINGS

NPIC/CSD 556/65

31 OCTOBER 1965

PAGES 2

PAGE 1 OF 2

COPY 1

25X1

25X1

HIGHWAY BRIDGE  
THAI NGUYEN, NORTH VIETNAM  
2135N 10550E

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1. PRE-STRIKE PHOTOGRAPHY OF BLUE SPRINGS

REVEALS A FIVE-SPAN, CONCRETE, 235 X DECK-TYPE BRIDGE LOCATED 0.5 NM WEST OF THAI NGUYEN ON ROUTE 13 OVER THE SONG CAU (RIVER). THE BRIDGE IS SERVICEABLE. A STRONGPOINT CONSISTING OF TRENCHING, WITH FIRING BAYS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS POSITIONS, IS OBSERVED IMMEDIATELY SOUTHEAST OF THE SOUTHERN APPROACH TO THE BRIDGE.

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2. POST-STRIKE PHOTOGRAPHY OF

REVEALS SEVERAL CRACKS ACROSS THE WIDTH OF THE CONCRETE DECK AND SEVERAL HOLES IN THE DECK SURFACE. THE SOUTHERN APPROACH TO THE BRIDGE IS INTERDICTED AND THE NORTHERN APPROACH IS DAMAGED DUE TO THE PROBABLE SHIFTING OF THE NORTHERN ABUTMENT. THE BRIDGE IS PROBABLY SERVICEABLE TO LIMITED VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.

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3. POST-STRIKE PHOTOGRAPHY ALSO REVEALS TWENTY-EIGHT DESTROYED BUILDINGS AND TWENTY-SEVEN DAMAGED BUILDINGS SITUATED ALONG EITHER SIDE OF ROUTE 3 IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE BRIDGE ON THE SOUTH BANK OF THE SONG CAU

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25X1

25X1  
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PAGE 2

25X1

25X1

(RIVER). ALSO OBSERVED IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE BRIDGE ARE THREE TRUCKS, ONE OF WHICH, OBSERVED ON THE SOUTHERN APPROACH TO THE BRIDGE, IS BURNING. THE TWO OTHER TRUCKS, EACH WITH A TRAILER ATTACHED, ARE OBSERVED WEST OF THE BRIDGE. ONE OF THESE TWO TRAILER-TRUCKS HAS BEEN CAMOUFLAGED BY DECEPTIVE PAINTING. THE PREVIOUSLY OBSERVED STRONGPOINT IS STILL PRESENT.

4. THE THAI NGUYEN BRIDGE IS AN IMPORTANT LINK IN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ROAD SYSTEM, CONNECTING ROUTE 1B WITH ROUTE 3. ROUTE 1B CONNECTS THAI NGUYEN WITH DONG DANG AT THE CHINESE BORDER, AND ROUTE 3 CONNECTS THAI NGUYEN WITH HANOI.

5. COLLATERAL REPORTS THAT US NAVY AIRCRAFT STRUCK THE THAI NGUYEN HIGHWAY BRIDGE ON 17 OCTOBER 1965. THREE AIRCRAFT WERE HIT BY INTENSE 37MM AND 57MM GROUND FIRE AND CRASHED. FOUR PARACHUTES WERE OBSERVED AND INDIVIDUALS WERE SEEN ON THE GROUND. ENEMY TROOPS WERE ALSO OBSERVED IN THE AREA. SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS HAVE TERMINATED AND THE MEN ARE PRESUMED CAPTURED. CREW MEMBERS OF THE THIRD PLANE, WHICH CRASHED INTO A MOUNTAIN SIDE, ARE PRESUMED KILLED.

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# HIGHWAY BRIDGE THAI NGUYEN, NORTH VIETNAM 21-35N 105-50E

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PRE-STRIKE

POST-STRIKE



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